TV's view of a view: China misunderstood

By Alan Bunce

New York

China?

That's where Charlton Heston leads the American Cavalry against rebelling hordes, to the tune of "Yankee Doodle Dandy." It's where Gregory Peck brings salvation to a land of lost millions longing for Western light. The solution to most of its problems can be summed up in the words of an executive who—with shining eyes—tells his salesmen "oil for the lamps of China, gentlemen —American oil."

Such images of the world's most populous land should be familiar to almost any moviegoer—including the late-night-TV variety—even if a bit stretched. They are among the many caricatures purveyed for Americans by the media over the years, and on CBS-TV Sunday night they make a fascinating study.

'Misunderstanding China'

The 60-minute program is "Misunderstanding China," a CBS News Special which avoids the superhighway of China backgrounding that has led up to President Nixon's trip. Instead, it takes a diverting and informative side road into what Americans have thought about China for 100 years —a view, if you will, of a view.

And a lurid one it is, stretching from pulp-magazine visions of Oriental fiends through World War II's idealized notion of a democratic, unified nation, right up to the Bamboo Curtain. Still drawings bring to life the days when Chinese were laying American railroad tracks. The pulp-magazine image of Chinese master criminals leads naturally into Hollywood's parade of arch-villains or the equally misrepresented Charlie Chan-style sages.

Nearly every popular source is incriminated in this show, as if CBS News were a repository of truth in a propaganda world. The film version of Pearl Buck's "The Good Earth" is pronounced "patronizing," making the Chinese out as superstitious and childlike. World War II documentaries about China are displayed as a ridiculously glorified picture that encouraged Americans to believe what they wanted to—that China was fighting for democracy just like them.

After 1949 the program stresses American ignorance about the Communist era there. Absentee China-watchers and witch-hunting Senators are seen as the primary basis for U.S. attitudes.

Misled

Some day, perhaps, this show itself might be raw material in a study of how people have been misled about China. Yet it does strive to redress the understanding gap. Its own version of the true China story stresses the failure of pride-borne Western policies: Missionaries never did have Chinese trust. Chiang Kai-shek fought World War II to secure his own position. The Communist regime is simply China's own solution to its problems. Once the Americans had gone, it was almost as if they had never been there.

Points like these are made in a briskly paced chain of stock footage and some not-so-stock clips. One is a rare sight for American TV: Mao Tse-tung speaking to an assembly in 1969. Tears well up in the eyes of the young girls who chant and sing to him. And there are shots of the new Shanghai, no longer the sin capital but "one of the safest—and dullest—big cities in the world."

Narrator Charles Kuralt expresses a hope at the end that in the diplomatic mission just ahead Americans can leave behind their false impressions. By the time the trip is over, many Chinese may wish the visitors had left a few other things behind.

Advance men

Like the army of TV advance men who preceded the official party, or the more than 40 tons of equipment that was shipped there in some 1,000 cases. The three commercial networks are pooling most of their resources, but it still adds up to a logistics spectacle, with some 87 news people accompanying the President.

Meanwhile, the China theme has increasingly pervaded radio and TV. Late movies feature old-China-hand adventures. Documentaries and discussions abound. Not only networks but special lineups and local stations have been airing capsule histories. This week in New York, for instance, WNEW-TV carried a two-hour backgrounder made in Yugoslavia called "Mao's China," with former USIA head John Daly as host. It was a problem of false impressions again, according to Mr. Daly. He warned the audience about the Mao slant of this film, and it was interrupted for assessments by journalists.

Perhaps the massive journalistic presence in misunderstood China will be a first and giant step to demythologizing it.

Arts scene

John Crosby, general director of Santa Fe Opera, has announced the repertory for the New Mexico company's 16th season (July 1-Aug. 26). New productions of Aribert Reimann's "Melusine." (in its American premiere), "Don Giovanni," and "Pelleas et Melisande" will be performed, with revivals of "Madama Butterfly," Offenbach's "La Grande Duchesse de Gerolstein," and Strauss's "Salome."

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR
FEB. 18, 1972

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By Louise S

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Don Freeman

TV-RADIO EDITOR
THE SAN DIEGO UNION

"Live from Peking!" The words breathe their own special excitement and drama. And there was Walter Cronkite, just before the presidential plane landed at Peking, speaking by satellite to Charles Collingwood, back at CBS in New York.

"Somehow," said Cronkite, "I had expected to see dark clothes everywhere, caps and black tunics on both sexes. But the clothes I've seen on the people here have some color to them. I was surprised."

Walter Cronkite

Another misconception shot down. Undoubtedly there will be more. Therein lies the significance of "Misunderstanding China," the aptly titled and highly illuminating program which preceded CBS' coverage of President Nixon's arrival in China.

"One item on the menu from Column A and one from column B and a fortune cookie — you'll be hungry an hour later," said the narrator, Charles Kuralt, adding wryly: "That is about as much as we know about the Chinese."

Once, Kuralt recalled, an Asian was asked, "What is your opinion of western civilization?" And he answered: "I think it would be a good idea." This kind of lofty disdain, rooted in a feeling of cultural superiority born of a civilization that is 4,000 years old (and a belief that all enemies crumble or are absorbed), has always been the attitude of the Chinese toward the West.

"But when it comes to feelings of superiority," Kuralt noted, "the Chinese have more than met their match in us Americans." For the rest of the hour we were given evidence of this, beginning with an early edition of the Encyclopedia Britannica summing up the Chinese as "cold, cunning and distrustful." And Theodore Roosevelt saying: "They are an immoral, degraded and worthless race."

* * *

LATER, IT WOULD BE the movies that would influence a generation or two. These movies range from the old thrillers to the comparatively recent "Sand Pebbles" and now it's happening all over again, with a spate of old flicks about China turning up lately on the TV late show.

How odd it seemed now, seeing the clips unfold from the old movies. "Hollywood reflected popular beliefs," says Kuralt. "Chinese lurked in the darkness. their presence meant treachery, danger . . . and certain death."

It sure did, judging from those movies with Lon Chaney and Bela Lugosi and Boris Karloff playing the infamous Dr. Fu Manchu. And the dialogue, as tortuous as the torture scenes: "This serum distilled from dragon's blood . . . the organs of different reptiles and mixed with the magic brew of the sacred seven herbs will temporarily change you into the living instrument of my will."

And from another gem: "Have you ever had your bones scraped, captain?"

"This is amusing racism, but it's still racism," said Kuralt. "The Chinese government officially protested this caricature. But protest from Chinese carried no weight at the box office."

Contrarily, in the movies, we were given one Chinese with all the wisdom of the inscrutable East, namely Charlie Chan ("Person who threw this knife also kill Alan Colby when he return to claim estate. Place body behind secret panel. Motive like end of string — tied in many knots.")

For 25 years, in 48 films, made by four studios, we saw six Charlie Chans — none of them Chinese. "All of them," says Kuralt, "spoke as if they had discovered English in a fortune cookie."

I think they did. * * *

WHEN IT COMES to China, even the experts, the so-called old China hands come up with a puzzlement (to borrow a phrase from another inscrutable, the king of Siam in "The King and I"). Dr. James Thomson of Harvard's East Asian Research Center has been opping up on ABC, working in tandem with Howard K. Smith.

The other night, Smith said to Thomson: "H. G. Wells once stated that the Great Wall was built more to keep the Chinese in than the barbarians out. True or false?"

Thomson hesitated. "Probably false," he said.

Then we were shown films of children in China on their way to school. They were eating popsicles. Popsicles in China?

"Don't tell me they were invented by the Chinese," Smith said.

"Who knows?" said Thomson.

The Detroit Times - Wed., Feb. 16, 1972

3

Judging It

Bamboo Curtain lifts ...

By FRANK JUDGE
News TV-Radio Critic

We Americans don't know much about mainland China and what we do know, I suspect, isn't true.

In the way that we have of stereotyping people, we have created our image of all Chinese largely in terms of Fu Manchu and Charlie Chan.

About the only Chinese we ever get to see off the movie or TV screens are waiters. We don't even get to see hand laundrymen much any more.

MUCH OF OUR MISCONCEPTIONS, which go back generations, are our own fault. But in more recent years we can attribute much of our ignorance to the Bamboo Curtain the Chinese Communists lowered.

Now, as President Nixon prepares for his historic visit to China, that curtain is lifting as it never has before. This is apparent from the special coverage television is devoting to the visit.

There was, for example, an NBC special on Channel 4 last night, and there will be other specials. The Public Broadcasting Service has a 90-minute special on Channel 56, starting at 7 p.m. tomorrow. ABC has a half-hour special on Channel 7 at 10:30 p.m. Saturday, and at 6 p.m. Sunday, CBS telecasts an hour-long special on Channel 2.

These are but just a few of the special programs that will be televised in the next few weeks.

LAST NIGHT, WITH JOHN CHANCELLOR in charge, NBC presented a three-segment program.

Author Pearl Buck, who lived in China for more than 40 years, was featured in the first part, which offered a capsule history of pre-World II United States-China relations.

The next segment showed how things went during and immediately following the war.

And finally we had a look at how things have been developing since the Communists took over the mainland. Films never before seen on American television were featured.

TOMORROW NIGHT, the Public Broadcasting Service special will consist of two major segments. One will be devoted to the departure of the President and Mrs. Nixon from Andrews Air Force Base, Md., tomorrow morning. The other will be a repeat showing of Theodore White's award-winning documentary, "China — A Revolution Revisited."

Saturday night, ABC will present the first of its "China Trip" specials. This one is called "President Nixon Leaves for Peking."

Bill Sheehan, vice-president and director of TV news for ABC (and a former WJR news director), says the program will:

"Cover the route of the President's visit to China, catalog the historic sites and cities the President is scheduled to visit, and attempt to ascertain the impact of the President's meeting with Peking leaders on the future of American foreign policy."

SPEAKING ABOUT THE CBS SPECIAL, "Misunderstanding China," that will be on Sunday, producer-writer Irv Drasnin says:

"In the past 20 years, China as an issue has divided America, played a part in Congressional witchhunts and presidential campaigns and great national debates. We have argued about the Chinese and we have fought the Chinese and all this time we haven't really known very much about them . . .

"What we think about something influences what we do about it. We have done many things in China, almost all of them based not on any real knowledge of the Chinese but on our feelings about them. What we have done in China is also based on our view of ourselves. This broadcast is as much about ourselves as it is about the Chinese."

"MISUNDERSTANDING CHINA" traces American-Chinese relationships back some 100 years, beginning with the arrival of the first Americans in China.

It illustrates — through the use of Hollywood movies, official government film, newsreels and old pulp magazines and cartoons — how Americans have sterotyped and characterized the Chinese.

Archie's black 'niece'

hina special shows all but the Chine

rinted from yesterday's ditions of The Sun.

by JUDY BACHRACH

iat is your opinion of rn civilization?"

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is was manifested the c regard the Chinese s had for outside cul- For its part, Western ation took a peculiar of the East. And as for Jnited States—well, ac- g to last night's CBS special, we saw the Chi- alternately through the of fear, greed, hate, ig- ice, and racism. But we saw the Chinese.

rles Kuralt narrated ather exceptional piece eological reversal which ined the U.S. attitude d China from the first k of the Open Door right through the last Charlie Chan movie.

Image and analysis

The first half of the program was devoted to China's image as it was revealed in the various progenitors of American culture: the pulp magazines emblazoned with leering yellow faces and the Hollywood movies that made fear mobile. The second half was simply an analysis of some of the more flagrant political outrages the West has perpetrated on the East.

"Misunderstanding China" began with a few succinct quotations from some of our more revered Americans: Ralph Waldo Emerson, who assured his readers that the only good thing China ever bequeathed to the world was tea; Teddy Roosevelt who called the Chinese an "im-

CHARLIE CHAN
(. . . Sidney Toler)

moral, degraded and worthless race." It then recounted the tragic history of cheap Chinese labor in America: the exploitation, the riots, the lynchings. And it deftly related all these overt manifestations of fear and ignorance to the culture that bolstered the stereotypes of fear and ignorance.

For 20 minutes we got some smartly-edited sequences from Fu Manchu and Charlie Chan movies, from "The Good Earth" and "55 Days at Peking." We saw Barbara Stanwyck melting into the arms of evil Oriental abductors; we saw gorgeous missionaries bestowing the blessings of civilization on a 4,000-year-old culture; we saw the humble Chinese peasants embracing Gregory Peck, battling Humphrey Bogart.

"The Battle of China"

But by far the finest moment came with an ancient clip of government propaganda called "The Battle of

World War II, which depicted the Chinese as a brave and honorable people, staunch allies fighting a common enemy and friends of democracy to the end. "Battle of China" was also speedily relegated to oblivion the movement the Korean War broke out, and replaced by another film illuminating the sorry defeat of the nice Chinese to the Red Chinese. And the juxtaposition of those two films was just about the most effective statement on about-face diplomacy CBS could have found. Also the most dramatic (s who says documentaries have to be dull?).

Part II was merely reality's embodiment of Hollywood daydreams: old footage of missionaries racing after Chinese souls, capitalists racing after Chinese yen, diplomats racing after Chiang Kai shek. More recent clips were provided through the courtesy of Swiss and Japanese journalists.

The only sorry thing about all of these bold re-examinations of China is that they come late—very late. Most specifically they come in the wake of a presidential concession to reality; they did not precede it. It's almost as i executive diplomacy dictates television content. Mao strips Peking of the more obvious anti-American posters; w

Today's television programs

Morning

9 Sunrise Semester.
4 News.
11 Devotions.
13 Sermonette.
4 Faith and Life.
13 The Afro-American Experience.
4 Down to Earth.
5 Today in Your Life.
2 16 Sunrise Semester.
11 Learning to Do.
4 Education Exchange.
5 Education.
8 Country Music Time.
9 Time for English.
13 Consumer Checkout.
4 Events 4 Washington.
2 9 CBS News.
Local news at 7.45.
11 4 8 15 Today.
Local news at 7.25 and 8.25.
13 The New Zoo Revue.
5 Cartoon Playhouse.
7 Public Affairs.
20 Astroboy.
7.30 13 Cartoon Festival.
11 28 Electric Company.
5 Porky Pig and Friends.
7 Cartoon Time.
20 Bozo Circus.
43 CBS News.
8.00 2 9 Captain Kangaroo.
11 28 Symposium on Drugs.
5 Banana Splits and Friends.
7 The Magic Door.
26 Sesame Street.
43 Jack LaLanne.
8.30 13 Leave It To Beaver.
20 George of the Jungle and Friends.
43 Morning Show.
9.00 2 16 Romper Room.
11 Watch Your Child/ The Me Too Show.
13 Arnold Zenker Show.
11 28 Classroom TV.
4 Not For Women Only.
5 The Flintstones.
7 Phil Donahue Show.
8 Mike Douglas.
9 Harambee.
20 Li'l Rascals.
26 Sesame Street.
43 Captain Kangaroo.
9.30 2 Dialing For Dollars.
11 Your Wonderful World.
4 Galloping Gourmet.
5 Mister Ed.
16 Bewitched.
20 Romper Room.
9.55 2 News.
10.00 2 To Tell the Truth.
11 8 Dinah's Place.
13 Baltimore Movietime.
"Flower Drum Song," (Part 2.) Rodgers and Hammerstein musical about a Chinese mail-order bride who comes to San Francisco. Nancy Kwan, James Shigota, Miyoshi Umeki. 1962.
5 Hazel.
7 What Every Woman Wants To Know.
9 16 43 Lucy Show.
20 Ben Casey.
26 Classroom TV.
10.30 2 9 16 43 My Three Sons.
13 4 8 Concentration.
5 My Favorite Martian.
7 Bewitched.
11.00 2 9 16 43 Family Affair.
11 4 8 Sale of the Century.
11 28 Sesame Street.
5 Hazel.
7 Love, American Style.
20 Morning Movie.
11.30 2 9 16 43 Love of Life.
13 4 8 Hollywood Squares.
13 7 That Girl.
5 The Mothers-in-Law

Afternoon

2 9 16 43 Where the Heart Is.
11 4 8 Jeopardy.
13 Bewitched.
7 16 All My Children.
8 What's My Line?
9 News.
20 Money Movie.
20 Bozo.
3.00 2 9 16 43 The Secret Storm.
13 4 8 Another World.
20 Speed Racer.
43 Gomer Pyle, U.S.M.C.
4.30 2 The Big Valley.
5 Dick Van Dyke Show.

Radio

News Reports

ON THE HOUR—WBAL, WCB WISZ, WISZ-FM, WFMM-F WEBB, WBMD, WBMD-FM, WFI WITH.
ON THE HALF HOUR—WFI WITH, WITH-FM, WBAL, WA FIVE MINUTES OF THE HOUI WCAO, WWIN, WMAR-FM.
Fifteen Minute Newscasts
7.00 A.M. WBAL, WITH.
8.00 A.M. WBAL, WITH.
12.00 Noon. WBAL.
1.00 P.M. WBAL.
5.00 P.M. WITH.
6.00 P.M. WBAL, WCBM.
7.30 P.M. WBAL.
11.00 P.M. WBAL.

Sports

8.00 P.M. WFBR—Ice Hockey: Cl pers vs. Cleveland.
10 P.M. WFBR—College Basketb Maryland vs. Richmond (tape).

Station Identificatio

Special Will Focus on China Misconceptions

"Misunderstanding China," an exploration of a century of myths, stereotypes and other misconceptions Americans have had about the Chinese, will be presented as a CBS News special, Feb. 20. Correspondent Charles Kuralt will be the reporter on the broadcast—to be presented on the eve of President Nixon's arrival in Peking.

"Misunderstanding China" traces Sino-American relationships back some 100 years, beginning with the arrival of the first Americans in China. It illustrates—through the use of Hollywood feature films, official government film, newsreels and old pulp magazines and cartoons — how Americans have stereotyped and characterized the Chinese. It also examines America's view of China during the past 20 years, as influenced both by old stereotypes and by new ones.

"In the past 20 years," says producer-writer Irv Drasnin, "China as an issue has divided America, played a part in Congressional witchhunts and presidential campaigns and great national debates. We have argued about the Chinese and we have fought the Chinese and all this time we haven't really known very much about them.

"The point is that we think we know something about them when all we have seen are laundrymen and waiters, and Fu Manchu and Charlie Chan. All these images and our view of them are part of this broadcast.

"What we think about something influences what we do about it," adds Drasnin. "We have done many things in China, almost all of them based not on any real knowledge of the Chinese but on our feelings about them. What we have done in China is also based on our view of ourselves. This broadcast is as much about ourselves as it is about the Chinese." Perry Wolff is executive producer of "Misunderstanding China."

ON THE RIGHT

William F. Buckley Jr.

TAIWAN SHOULD SECEDE

The haunting philosophical questions temporarily aside, there is the practical question of the future of the island of Taiwan. Over the years, Chiang Kai-shek has steadfastly maintained that he is the lawful head of the government not only of the province of Taiwan, but of all of mainland China.

For a long time we indulged him the title of Chief of State of all of China. Partly we did this out of sentiment, even as we recognized exile governments during the Second World War. Partly we did it thinking it just possible that mainland China's government would collapse, as once or twice it came very close to doing.

But the situation is now irrevocably changed. Even if the next Cultural Revolution should succeed in deposing Mao, it will not restore Chiang Kai-shek. So that Chiang, growing old, lives by a fiction in which he is all but isolated. Meanwhile, that fiction serves the purposes of his enemies.

"The United States," said the joint communique issued in Shanghai, "acknowledges that all Chinese on either side of the Taiwan Strait maintain there is but one China and that Taiwan is a part of China. The United States Government does not challenge that position. It reaffirms its interest in a peaceful settlement of the Taiwan question by the Chinese themselves. With this prospect in mind, it affirms the ultimate objective of the withdrawal of all U.S. forces and military installations from Taiwan . . ."

* * *

Now it can be seen not only that the contradiction closes in on Chiang Kai-shek, but that the U. S. is making gleeful use of it. As long as Chiang maintains that two territories are one, who is the U. S. to disagree? And if they are one, it will in due course be plain that the dog should wag the tail rather than vice versa.

We have a defense treaty, on the basis of which it continues to be strictly a matter between Taiwan and the United States how many troops we desire to keep on Taiwan territory. But we have, with China, a joint communique in which we pledge ourselves to Chou's Five Points, one of them noninterference in internal matters.

The lowering paradox finds us, already, promising the mainland that we will reduce our military mission in Taiwan. And in the United Nations, Taiwan has only the standing of a mutinous province, an Asian Biafra.

The time has come for the government of Taiwan formally to secede from China. The instrument of secession would be at least as eloquent as our own Declaration of Independence. More, really, because however hateful King George was, he was the soul of toleration, by Mao's standards.

George Washington and his fellow-secessionists had not had an experience of independence from Great Britain. By contrast, Taiwan has governed itself for 23 years, disturbing not the peace of the world, indeed earning the admiration of all who have come to know it.

Granted there are Taiwanese who resent Chiang Kai-shek and his government of mainlanders. But even there, there has been a considerable shift of sentiment from 15 years ago, when the mainlanders occupied almost all the positions of responsibility. Although there are Taiwanese who will continue to resent Chiang's government (there were Americans who opposed the Declaration of Independence), there are very few Taiwanese who would elect to be governed by Peking.

* * *

Accordingly, the stage is set. It is difficult to see how the U. S., or for that matter any other country whose politics are not dictated by Communist capitals, could fail to recognize, instantly, the independent country of Taiwan. Even the Communists acknowledge the right or revolution, and the right of independent states. And Taiwan would be nothing less than that—an independent state, de facto and, now, de jure.

One wishes that one could instantly assume that the U. S. would welcome such a development, as releasing us from a dilemma. At the present moment our posture toward Peking is too slavish to be absolutely certain even of that. But what alternative would we have than to grant recognition?

That, to the extent one can find solutions, is the current solution for the Taiwan problem. It would be a sign of health, and of ultimate patriotism: as well, a gesture of devotion to the people who have sheltered him during the past 23 years, if Chiang were now to make this concession to reality, and this contribution to order and hope for what is left of his people.

3/10/72

The Forgotten Taiwanese

President Nixon's journey to Peking last month has finally shattered the sustaining illusions of the Chiang Kai-shek regime on Taiwan—the claim that it is the only legitimate Government of China and the hope for a triumphal return to the mainland. This was inescapable. Support for Chiang's pretensions and the maintenance of American military bases on Taiwan, which Mr. Nixon has now pledged ultimately to withdraw, were obviously incompatible with the American-Chinese rapprochement that reality has long dictated and which the President has prudently sought.

It is not so self-evident, however, that the development of a viable new China policy requires the United States to abandon Taiwan to Peking without qualification, as was strongly suggested in the communiqué issued by American and Chinese leaders in Shanghai. In that communiqué, the United States accepted the claim of both Chiang and the Communist leaders that "Taiwan is a part of China" and affirmed its interest in a peaceful settlement of the Taiwan question by the Chinese themselves.

This formulation wholly ignores the wishes of twelve million native Taiwanese, some 85 per cent of the population, who up to now have had virtually no say in the present Government at Taipei and whose political aspirations have been systematically repressed by Chiang and the two million followers who fled with him from the mainland in 1949. Although the ancestors of the indigenous Taiwanese originally came from China and the Taiwanese of today share a common Chinese heritage, they have evolved a distinct culture of their own during centuries of tenuous rule from the mainland and later under Japanese domination.

The gap between Taiwan and mainland China has dramatically widened during the last two decades of rapid economic development on the island under American tutelage, development that has given the Taiwanese one of the highest living standards in Asia. Some experts believe that Peking would find Taiwan highly indigestible in its present advanced stage. Certainly few Taiwanese, including the more recent mainland immigrants, can be eager to be digested by the Maoist state with its backward economy and severely repressive institutions.

* * *

Although Peking's leaders now insist that Taiwan is an inseparable part of China, they did not always hold this view. In the nineteen-thirties, when he was still struggling for power, Mao Tse-tung told the late Edgar Snow: "Manchuria must be regained. We do not, however, include Korea . . . if the Koreans wish to break away from the chains of Japanese imperialism, we will extend to them our enthusiastic help in their struggle for independence. The same thing applies for Formosa."

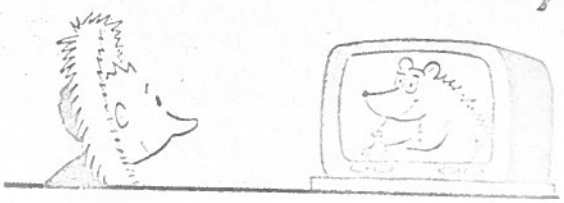
Peking's present claim rests in part on the pledge of World War II allies at Cairo to return the island to the Republic of China. But President Truman renounced that pledge in 1951 when he declared that the future of Taiwan was an open question. The subsequent Japanese peace treaty also left the status of Taiwan unresolved.

China certainly is entitled to insist that Taiwan not continue as the seat of a rival Chinese Government or as a base for potentially hostile military forces. But Peking's legal right to Taiwan is not so clear. Far clearer —and in fact the overriding—claim is that of the Taiwanese people to self-determination, a principle to which most governments of the world, including that of China, are committed through the United Nations Charter.

Because of its own historical commitment to the right of self-determination, and of its deep involvement in the affairs of Taiwan for more than two decades, the United States has a special obligation to respect the interests of the forgotten Taiwanese people as President Nixon continues to evolve his new Asian policies.

Time to Act on Ulster

Terrence O'Flaherty



This Dance Is Taken

IT MAY be difficult to learn what the Chinese people have been doing during the communications blackout, but judging from the four-act ballet staged for the Nixons, it is easy to see what they HAVEN'T been doing. They haven't been dancing.

There may be mysteries in politics but there are none in art.

Ballet for Nixons

Much of the performance of "The Girl of The Workers Party" was carried on television yesterday morning and inasmuch as it was produced by the wife of Mao Tse-tung it cannot be dismissed as a mere divertissement for statesmen. Obviously it was the best of the People's Republic entertainment. Like American television, it reached for the lowest common denominator and found it. Unlike American TV, it was sought in the artistry of the dance rather than situation comedy.

★ ★ ★

THE POLITICAL intent of the plot is obvious and needs no comment. Even a half-wit could tell what was happening. The disappointment was in the quality of the dancing itself. Like most revolutionary art it was constructed of muscle instead of the spirit, but even the muscularity lacked the boisterous, folkdance skill of Russia's Moiseyev troupe, the only handy comparison.

What the ballet DID have, however, was the strength that comes from simple dedication and pride which is found in U.S. junior high school productions and disappears almost immediately thereafter. In the end it was the production's honesty which stays in the mind. It was another aid in understanding the Chinese which, after all, is the purpose of the trip.

It also served to recall the claim of writer-producer Irving S. Drasnin in his fascinating CBS program "Misunderstanding China" that the American attitude toward China in this century has been determined by the images of the Chinese found in political cartoons, dime novels, comic books and Hollywood movies. It is from them — not books or direct contact — that we have known our new friends in the past.

★ ★ ★

S.F. Chronicle 2/23/72

DRASNIN'S documentary included a fascinating collection of scenes from "The Mask of Fu Manchu," "The Bitter Tea of General Yen," "Oil for the Lamps of China," "The Mysterious Mr. Wong" and other films drumming home the stereotype of the sinister Chinese, which already had been introduced on the covers of adventure magazines.

'Charlie Chan'

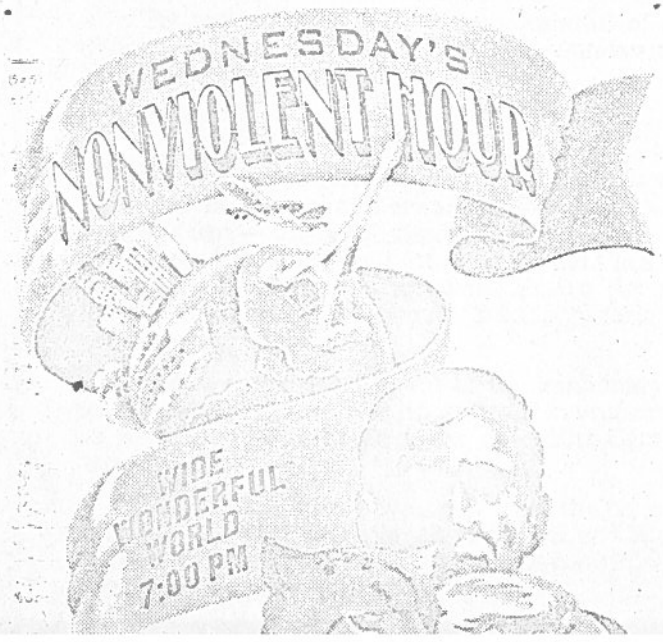
"To be sure, some Chinese possessed all the wisdom of the East — like Charlie Chan, who was no more a real Chinese than the actors who played him. There were six of them and all spoke as if they had learned English from a fortune cookie," observed narrator Charles Kuralt. Even the good images Americans found in the novels of Pearl Buck were another stereotype.

* * *

OTHER misunderstandings were documented by the program: Despite the 4000 American missionaries who descended upon the 4000-year-old Chinese civilization and pronounced it heathen, the actual number of conversions was less than one per cent of the population . . . At the height of the U.S. mercantile invasion of China the Chinese market represented only 4 per cent of America's total foreign trade.

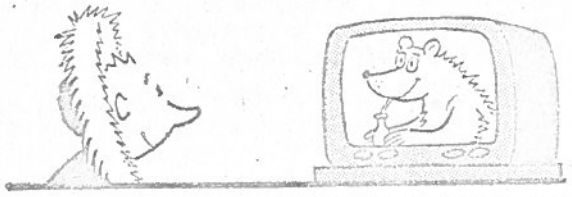
"In the past 22 years China has still been a hazy image in American minds rather than a reality. Almost everything Americans and Chinese know of each other is what their governments have wanted them to know. The purpose of this program is to see beyond the images and stereotypes and begin to see the Chinese, and ourselves, more realistically," concluded Kuralt.

We seem to be doing our part. Let's hope it works the other way as well.



San Francisco Chronicle Thurs., Feb. 24, 1972

Terrence O'Flaherty



Instant China

"FROM EUROPE we took our basic ideas — our concepts of law and civilization. From China we took some tea and silk and porcelain," observed Charles Kuralt in the informative CBS documentary, 'Misunderstanding China.' The following quotes from that program provide the best capsule history of our relations I have found.

Charles Kuralt

"The first American troops entered China in 1900. They came, uninvited, for the best of purposes — to rescue American traders and missionaries from a Chinese uprising against all foreigners. Once there, they stayed.

"The sight of uniformed Americans landing in China became familiar. Others had arrived ahead of us—first the British followed by the French, the Germans, the Russians and Japanese. Each power claimed a piece of Chinese territory for itself — except America. We thought that made us different but, to the Chinese, ALL foreigners looked alike.

"By today's standards only a handful of U.S. troops marched into China but in any number they were offensive to the Chinese.

* * *

"CONSTANT REMINDERS were the foreign warships in Shanghai harbor — American ships among them — anchored there not as visitors but as occupants. The ships brought the men and the arms. They also brought the missionaries. To the new frontier the Americans would bring civilization — and salvation.

Whatever the good intent of the missionary, to the Chinese he, too, was an intruder in uniform — an imperialist of righteousness on a 20th Century crusade . . .

"The only Chinese we knew were the few who imitated Americans. We thought ALL Chinese wanted to be like us. Their world was controlled by outsiders and they wanted to change it.

S.F. Chronicle 2/24/72

"BEGINNING EARLY in this century, increasing numbers of Chinese believed revolution was the only way. Sun Yat Sen was the first Chinese leader we could identify. Americans called him the George Washington of China. And that was based on another myth — that China's desire to be strong and independent was a desire for democracy. Americans confused the Chinese revolution with their own.

"In the 1920s and '30s America responded to another revolutionary, Chiang Kai-shek (and his wife), both Christians, who seemed to confirm what the missionaries had promised: China was becoming a democracy united behind Christian leadership. It was a myth that would defeat American policy throughout the war and after. America took little notice of Mao Tse-tung who led a peasant army and talked of agrarian reform.

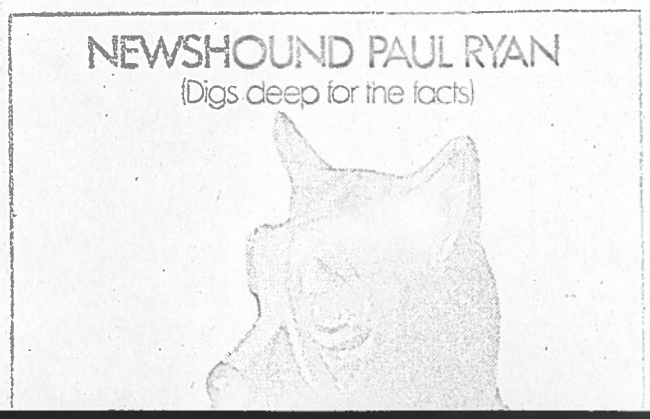
"The country united around Chiang was not China but America. we expected that China would help fight our war against Japan if we provided the arms and the leadership. But the war being fought in China was between the Communists and the Nationalists, the latter bolstered by $3 billion in U.S. aid.

* * *

"BY 1949 the Communists had won and the Nationalists had retreated to Taiwan. The American merchants went home. So did the Christianity and the Democracy — all stamped 'REFUSED' by the culture to which they had been brought. Bewildered voices at home spoke accusingly of the loss of China. It is clear now that China was never ours ot lose. For the first time in a hundred years the only troops that marched the streets of China were Chinese. Whatever their politics, these Chinese were united against foreign domination. Their leaders drove in a captured 1941 Buick and much of their army was equipped with American weapons also captured from their enemy. That made America an enemy too.

"And there — in the tradition of Khans and emperors before him — stood Mao Tse-tung . . ."

It is Mao's China that President Nixon is visiting this week.



-- Also to Charles Kur
he was a Bureau Chie
I was, after Schalme,
Zelman, before Harris,
land, before ...

The Washington Post STYLE People / Leisure / Comics

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1972

The Peking Visit Telecasts: An Illusion of Indifference

Commentary

By Henry Mitchell

Honest men may differ on the question of Mrs. Nixon's chopsticks since "proficiency" is a flexible word; and honest eyes looking at the round balls in front of each plate at the Peking banquet may variously see them as pomegranates (as I guessed) or oranges (as the China expert from Harvard thought) or bowls of Jello (as correspondent John Hart surmised for reasons inscrutable).

You certainly couldn't tell with any certainty from the picture on CBS (WTOP, Channel 9) in yesterday's predawn report of the President's trip to China.

And while these were among the high points of my own 14 hours beside the TV set and CBS, there's no need to begin with a quibble.

The main point is that trifles start seeming interesting, or indeed urgently critical, by the time a camera has intruded them on your attention for half an hour.

Through no fault of CBS (and other reporters watching the other networks found much the same) the extremely significant visit with Mao Tse-tung could not be shown, while the bulk of pictures from Peking that were shown were monotonous.

Twenty shots of the Gate of Heavenly Peace are as good as 200 shots; and once you've satisfied yourself that the Great Hall of the People is almost as graceless as the Rayburn Building, there's no real need to marvel at it indefinitely.

The trouble—and it's a real trouble—is that television quickly bogs down without novelties to delight the eye. Activity, and not necessarily reality, is what shows and counts in a TV camera's eye.

The greeting of the President by Premier Chou and the prompt reception by Chairman Mao were marks of singular interest and honor—but the TV pictures of empty streets contradicted that reality and produced an illusion of indifference to the Nixon visit.

It is clearly more significant if the talks go well with Mao than if half a million people mill in the streets, but the illusion of electronic pictures is so strong that this point is easily overlooked while watching. Thus, television, merely by honestly focusing its cameras on action, can distort or obscure the importance of an event.

Without exciting pictures it is at last understandable how a commentator could be driven to observe that Chinese wine is "like liquid razor blades" and that Mrs. Nixon was drinking it "perhaps to her cost." This did not mean Mrs. Nixon was chugging it down—merely that the speaker was a bit desparate to fill up the time.

Only when the rare moments of activity were kaleidoscoped, putting hours into minutes, did television seem exciting, in retrospective summaries.

And even then there was an irony not lost on the multi-houred viewer:

The excellent CBS documentary, "Misunderstanding China," which began the network's marathon coverage at 6 p.m. Sunday, warned that for 100 years America has thought of China in terms of dangerous images rather than in terms of fact and knowledge.

Soon thereafter the network began showing its largely accidental images for the next 13 hours, off and on.

Such is the hazard of television. If the Peking scene had been hugely active or marvelously emotional, everybody would say the coverage was glorious. As it was, the empty plazas all but lied about the importance of the day.

Today's Broadcast Schedule

Although television coverage of President Nixon's trip is not firmly scheduled, partly because of the President's flexible travel plans, the following times are the best estimates of Washington stations for their special reports from China today (subject in each case to further spot coverage whenever events warrant):

- *Channel 4 (WRC-NBC) — 7 to 9 a.m. ("The Today Show") and 1130 p.m. to midnight.*
- *Channel 7 (WMAL-ABC) — 7:30 to 8 a.m., 4:30 to 5:10 p.m. and 11:30 p.m. to 1 a.m.*
- *Channel 9 (WTOP-CBS) — 7 to 8 a.m. and 10:30 to 11 p.m. It is thought that the 7 a.m. program will show the President with Premier Chou at a cultural exhibition.*

This morning in Washington will find Peking in its evening hours since that capital is 13 hours ahead of our time.

DAILY NEWS, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1972

TV WHAT'S ON? RADIO

Nixon's Arrival in China Start of TV Spectacular

By KAY GARDELLA

It was a suspenseful television night all right! As the curtain went up on an alltime television spectacular — President Nixon's trip to the People's Republic of China— it could easily have been a scene from a Broadway show.

Certainly the stage was set, as Walter Cronkite, Edwin Newman and other network newsmen reported at 8:30, p.m., the first transmission from China. Since there are 13 hours difference, it was Monday morning at the Peking Airport, which was austere and undecorated except for a portrait of Mao Tse-tung.

Some early risers in China were seen bicycling by, but nowhere was there an indication that very soon the President of the United States and his party would be on the scene. Tien An Men, the immaculately swept square in Peking, which was seen on television, offered no evidence that the historic moment was about to take place.

This is the way it is in all Broadway spectaculars. The empty set and suddenly the action.

But underneath this cold, bleak early - morning scene one felt China was ready — scrubbed and ready.

And then, suddenly, during CBS' pre-arrival coverage anchored by Charles Collingwood, the first indication that there would be someone at the scene occurred — marching, singing members of the Honor Guard of the People's Liberation Army taking their place at the airport. Otherwise, as Walter Cronkite and Eric Sevaried did their best to convey, there was little excitement or anticipation in China.

Friendly Reception

The newscaster did mention, however, the friendly reception they received as members of the press corps and the promises that they would have telephones, filing facilities, etc., at their disposal. Reviewed, too, in the special were the anti-imperialist slogans around the airport and square and the effort made by the Chinese to "undo some of the excesses."

CBS' coverage got under way at 9:30 and ABC's at 10:30 p.m. NBC, which started its coverage at 10 p.m., confirmed the CBS picture—that the Chinese were treating the President's arrival "cool and correct," as John Chancellor said. His report and Barbara Walters' report, along with Dan Rather's on CBS, indicated a communication problem, since some of the information was scanty. Neverthless, Barbara did say everything was well organized, yet they could not say who precisely would greet President Nixon.

Suspense Mounts

At this time, correspondents had gathered at the airport and President Nixon's plane was seen approaching Peking Airport, with its empty flagpoles. The guards, uniformly and rigidly, were standing in formation, as the Spirit of '76 arrived. The crescendo of voices from the ground was the first real excitement felt in this otherwise chilly reception.

As the plane came to a halt Chancellor commented that th

Peking during the coming

commentators had not seen the official welcoming party. There were a few tense moments for televiewers who did not know, anymore than the correspondents did, whether Chou would be there to welcome the President. Then President and Mrs. Nixon and the rest of the party stepped out of the plane and we all breathed a sigh of relief.

Play National Anthems

Indeed, Chou was there with a large greeting party! As "the Star-Spangled Banner was played and the American flag was raised, followed by "The March of the Volunteers," the Chinese national anthem, tensions eased.

Much hand shaking followed and then the President and Mrs. Nixon stepped into the lead car of a motorcade which was to take him on an 18-mile drive to his headquarters. As the black cars could be seen driving down well-manicured streets, this viewer breathed a big sigh of relief. The President had arrived safe and so far, all was well.

Prior to the coverage of Nixon's arrival, CBS last night put into remarkably clear perspective the many fantasies Americans have harbored about the Chinese, and in an eloquent and also entertaining hour narrated by Charles Kuralt made a timely plea for discarding old fears and images and viewing China in a more realistic light.

Starting with pulp magazines and other trite and untrue literature, in which the Chinese were depicted as fiendish villians skilled in terrorizing people, the special, entitled "Misunderstanding China," presented film clips from old Hollywood flicks which added fuel to our fantasies and made it even harder for us to see reality.

Even the era of Mme. Chiang Kai-shek, when China was America's heroic ally, was shown as a six-year dream soon abandoned when, in 1950, Americans found themselves in battle against Chinese—Red Chinese.

presentations around the

idnight. Peking time is 13 ahead of New York.

xon's plane is scheduled to in Peking at 10:30 p.m. tomorrow, New York time. CBS it will begin coverage of the val at 9:30 p.m., NBC will be- at 10 and ABC at 10:30. NBC it will present the first live picture from Peking at 8:30 p.m., a two-minute pickup show-

days ago many theaters in the metropolitan area began showing a reissue of "West Side Story," which NBC will televise in two parts on March 14-15. . . . O. J. Simpson of the Buffalo Bills will portray an ex-convict who paints art forgeries on a forthcoming episode of Cade's County on CBS-TV. . . . Michael Landon, the Little Joe of Bonanza, was script writer and director for the episode to be televised by NBC on March 12.

JARY 19, 1972

tial primary in New Hampshire just 17 days away, were these:

¶Senator George McGovern of South Dakota toured shoe factories in New Hampshire, issued a statement criticizing the Administration's defense budget and added to his full-time campaign staff Pierre Salinger, who was press secretary to President Kennedy.

¶The staff of Mayor Lindsay, who set off yesterday for seven days of campaign appearances in Minnesota, Wisconsin, Florida and California, announced that he would participate in two TV programs in Florida with other contenders for the Democratic Presidential nomination in that state. The dates for the appearances are Sunday, March 12, and Monday, March 13, the days immediately preceding the primary on March 14. Mr. Lindsay's announcement said Senators McGovern and Henry M. Jackson of Washington had accepted the Mayor's offer to debate all his rivals in Florida, where 11 Dem-

Democratic rivals, showed the President winning in every test

The survey, based on 997 interviews conducted in the state earlier this month, gave Mr. Nixon 44 per cent against 40 per cent for Senator Muskie; 43 per cent against 38 per cent for Senator Humphrey and 44 per cent against 41 per cent for Senator Edward M. Kennedy of Massachusetts.

In other trial races, Mr. Nixon outpolled other possible Democratic rivals by the following margins: 47 per cent to 32 per cent over Senator McGovern; 47 per cent to 32 per cent over Mayor Lindsay; 47 per cent to 31 per cent over Mr. McCarthy; 52 per cent to 18 per cent over Senator Jackson; 56 per cent to 16 per cent over Representative Shirley Chisholm of Brooklyn; 56 per cent to 12 per cent over Mayor Sam Yorty of Los Angeles and 55 per cent to 15 per cent over Senator Vance Hartke of Indiana.

the norm

to 250. The President said his hosts were eager to "do this thing right" in the way of interpreters, facilities and banquet invitations. The White House regards 100 as a happy compromise and decided itself on the 60-40 split between television's needs and all other media.

Two satellites over the Pacific will service the traveling party with all forms of communication, including a few exotic varieties known only to the White House. Besides the telephone and telegraph channels that the White House will share with the media, Mr. Nixon will have several "backup capabilities," t is said, including the communications centers on his planes, the Spirit of '76, and ts alternate, and a so-called 'suitcase satellite" that is a one-channel feed to another satellite in the skies.

Mr. Nixon will be in instant ouch, if he wishes, with his own plane even during the wo hours that he spends

descent and emergency ing at various Pacific outposts. In addition, naval rescue forces have been deployed across the ocean so that none will ever be more than 30 minutes from the Presidential jet, which travels at about 625 miles an hour.

●

Besides safety, China also promises economy. The reporters traveling by charter will pay between $2,300 and $2,400 for each seat but only $150 for a week's room and board, including what are universally celebrated as gourmet dinners.

"Fortunately I like Chinese food," the President told correspondents en route. "I can eat Chinese food without gaining weight, of course, the cuisine is so varied."

Just in case, the President's plane will also carry an ample supply of Mr. Nixon's favorite weight-watching dish —cottage cheese.

MAX FRANKEL

hosts will determine much time can be de- to such subjects, Mr. concluded, stating ome of the most val- exchanges in this sense ot be "newsworthy or public."

MAX FRANKEL

r antiwar y said. hile, Sen. H y of Minnes as "a total re" the law rds of the N on, and ca ate hearing omination o

accused Sens. Edmund Muskie of Maine and George McGovern of South Dakota of supporting radical terrorists esponsible for hundreds of ombings in the United

The general Promote Produ district where gray landscap trees bordering rice fields

The drive from the airport was to follow an avenue of Street Slogans